

Let's get acquainted

by Ruby M. Compton

Walter Montgomery was born at home on Sept. 3, 1904. He was the fifth child of Livingston and Amelia Ann Clegg Montgomery. His brothers and sister were prominent people in Heber City, as were his parents. L.C. was a prominent lawyer; Clayton was a well liked dentist. Mary Ann, older than Clayton, died of whooping cough; Juventa was a school teacher. Walt said he was the "surprise". He arrived nine years later. Though Dr. Wherritt was engaged to help deliver the baby, he was busy delivering the William Sharp baby, so Dr. Martin came to the Montgomery home; as it turned out, the two doctors were present at the time of Walt's birth.

I asked Walt how Juventa got her name, and he told me that she was named after an aunt, who had been named for the ship on which Grandfather Clegg and family had sailed from Liverpool, England. These people were from Walton-le-Dale, near Preston, Manchester, England.

Walt's father, Livingston Montgomery, was born in Dalmellington, Ayrshire, on the banks of the River Doon, Scotland. His father, Robert, was born in Churchtown, Londonderry, Ireland.

Walt attended Central Elementary and Wasatch High School in Heber. He enjoyed drama activities and debate during each of his four years in high school. He was on the affirmative side with Vida Broadbent, now Dr. Vida B.

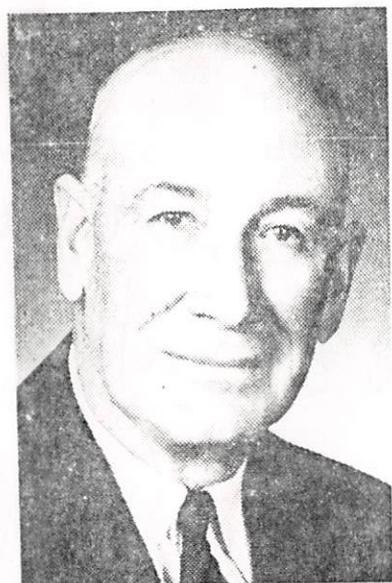


Mr. and Mrs. Walter Montgomery

In 1977 Jean and Walt sold part of the farm and went to Europe with two of their children and their spouses. They visited Scotland and on to other countries. They have also traveled in the USA from coast to coast. They have also gone to Hawaii.

In 1979, Jean and Walt were called to serve a mission in the New York-Rochester area. This was in the heartland of the place where the early LDS church began. Walt and Jean were sent to the Northern Tier in Pennsylvania, where Walt was called to preside the Wellsboro Branch, a 125 mile area. He was to build a new church house while there. Three months before the completion of his mission, Walt suffered a partial stroke. He was a month in the hospital in Sayre, New York before he was sent home in August of 1980.

Jean and Walt have raised six children, listed here in the order of their birth: Richard W., graduated from Utah State University. He married Joan Crandall of CA. They have three children. He retired after 28 years as a Col. in the U.S. Air Force. He was the commander of an active reserve unit. Now he works for the Cal. State School Board. He has been president of the Sacramento Stake, now divided into two stakes and he is Pres. of the Sacramento-Cardova Stake. Before marriage, Richard was called to serve in the Toronto, Canada mission, but this



Wentz of Chicago; the negative team was Barton Wherritt, a prominent doctor in Salt Lake City before his death, and LaVon Pypper who has spent most of her adult life in the teaching profession. Her married name is Milliner.

Walt had planned to go to the BYU, but he found work on the Upper Provo Lakes Project. Then he helped raise the dam at Witt's Lake, east of Heber.

He attended BYU through the year of 1924-25, then he was called to fill an LDS mission in the Western States. His assigned area was New Mexico. Shortly after arriving at his destination, Walt was appointed District President. He served in this capacity for 22 months. It was his responsibilities to build a new church house in Bluewater, N.M. Walt could never understand how the town got such a name as it was in a very dry area. Walt organized the first Sunday School in Albuquerque, N.M. to last. On the 25th Anniversary of the organization, he was asked to be a guest. Walt accepted the invitation and took his family with him.

Walt came home from his mission in 1928. The people of Bluewater asked him to stay on and teach school but he decided not to go back.

In the fall of 1928, Walt was asked to replace Mr. Perkins for the rest of the year, as the man had suffered severe injuries and could no longer teach. Walt completed the school year teaching in Wallsburg, Utah. He had 17 students in his class which included three sets of boys. He got along well with his students and they graduated to attend Wasatch High School the following year. This was the only year Walt taught in Wallsburg.

picnics and rides to visit their ranch friends with her mother and brother and sisters. Paddy had been the first law and peace officer in the area and was away from home when necessary to complete his duty.

As a seven year old, Jean reasoned that it couldn't be all wrong that her father had traded his ranch, on the Yellowstone River in Utah, straight across for a ranch near Lone Tree, Wyoming. At least, she would be near her Aunt Maggie Murdock who had never missed sending a bucket of hard-tack to the Paddy Clyde family which was their real source of candy for the entire summer. Freight was very irregular in those days, so it meant careful planning to get that bucket of candy included each spring.

The family returned to their family home in Heber 1st Ward. They spent winters in Heber and summers on the ranch in Wyoming. They were very popular in school, civic and church activities.

Jean was eleven or twelve years old when her father sold their first ward home and bought a large, roomy home in the 3rd ward, in the Southeastern part of Heber. The Livingston Montgomery family was very active in the ward activities and Jean learned who Walter Montgomery was.

Jean was an A student all through high school. Her main interests were in music, dramatics and sewing. She wanted to go on the BYU, and had been a part time telephone operator while in her senior year of high school, and became a full time operator in the summer of 1928. After her graduation, she didn't have enough money to go on in her education.

Arthur N. Tayler wanted Walt to take over the management of their Springville store, but he told them no, as he had his farm and cattle business to care for and that he was newly sworn in as Bishop of the 3rd Ward in Heber. Later the manager of the Heber store transferred and Walt was chosen to manage Heber's Dixon-Taylor-Russell Furniture Store. He kept this job during the next 5 years, then the company was forced to close five of its ten stores, keeping only those in larger cities open. During these years as manager, Walt took calves and farm produce as payment on furniture and payed the company cash in it's place. At that time, calves were selling at \$7.50 a head and Walt filled the needs of the farmer, the store, and built his own cattle herd.

From his early manhood, Walt worked as part time Cattle Herder for the Heber Cattle Association. It was right that he take this work full time after the store was closed. There was a cabin provided for the cattle herder, at Mill B. flat. Walt and Jean took the children with them each summer and lived in the mountains east of Heber. Sometimes they had to use pack animals and tents as they went to higher ground. Jean was never at a loss as to how to take her children along and keep them entertained. The summer in the hills were happy times for all of them.

Walt served as Bishop from Feb. of 1931 to 1938, then he was released and served in the Stake High Priest Presidency for 17 years. He has been in the presidency of every priesthood quorum, but he was never a Seventy. He was also in the presidency of the young men's MIA, and served on the Ward-

Toronto, Canada mission, but this was held up because of the restrictions during the war.

Ann graduated from LDS Business College. She married Jerry Baum, both worked for Boeing Air Craft. They now live in Mexican Hat where they bought an Indian Trading Post. Jerry has served in the Bishopric of the Emenclaw-Wash. Wards.

Mary went to the University of Utah and holds a certificate in Early Childhood Development. She married Keith Wooton and they live in Sandy, UT. Keith is custodian of their church. Mary owns and is director of the "Sunny Day Pre-School and Nursery" in Sandy. There is a branch of the "Sunny Day Pre-School and Nursery" opened at the North School in Heber City. Keith is involved in Scout work and the nursery that his wife owns. They have four of their own children and have adopted a Navaho boy.

David gradauted from Utah State University in General Education, majored in mathematics. He completed a mission to Scotland and has served in two different bishoprics. While living in Central Valley, California, he married Christine Mitchel of Midway, Utah. They now live in Vernal, Utah, where he teaches mathematics in the Middle School. They have four boys. Christine has been employed with the Construction Home Builders."

Jane Montgomery graduated from Utah State University with high honors and received many awards. She married a fellow student of the same university, named Sheldon K. Kimsel. He is from Ohio. He graduated from Utah State University and has a master's degree from Madison, Wisconsin. He is employed by TVA in Tennessee. They have five daughters.

Walt and Jean Clyde had known each other for years, but they had never dated until after he returned from his mission. Jean was born Jan. 5, 1909, in Heber City, Utah. She was the third of six children born to John D. (Paddy) and Anabel Murdock Clyde. John D. was the son of John and Fannie Jane Young. Anabel Murdock was the daughter of David N. and Margaret Young Murdock.

Walt and Jean's ancestors were early settlers of Heber Valley.

When the children were young, "Paddy" Clyde closed his Heber 1st Ward home and moved to a ranch he owned on the Yellowstone River. They were in the hills, 13 miles above Altona, Utah. As Ellis Clyde, and Laura were older than Jean, they attended school in Altona, where their mother brought her children to live each winter.

Jean's older sister, Laura, enrolled in Roosevelt High School the year Jean was 7 years old. Turned out to be her last year in elementary school at Altona for it was decided that the mother and children would open their home in Heber. Jean was filled with nostalgia for she had dearly loved the ranch life, and the long evenings with the family. Her father, Paddy, was very good at playing the mandolin and singing and she had learned all her songs while sitting on his knee, or riding the long trail to Altona when the family sang as their horses moved along. She had equally enjoyed the

Jean and Walt started dating after his return from his mission but had not set a date for their wedding. One evening David Broadbent called on Walt and told him that he would be recommended to be next in line as the Bishop of Heber Third Ward, when Bishop Fredrick Crook stepped down from that office after 28 years as Bishop. He told Walt that he could not be given this opportunity until after he married.

Walt told Jean of this and they were married in the LDS Salt Lake Temple on Oct. 27, 1930. Walt bought his father's farm of 40 acres in the North Fields. They were barely settled in their home when Walt was recommended and sworn in as Bishop of his ward. He served to the best of his ability for the next 7 years. Since the earliest Bishops retired, the policy has been for shorter terms in this office.

Walt worked for Dixon-Taylor-Russell Furniture Company. He delivered furniture and collected payments in the Park City-Kamas area. This was in the early depression years and work and money were scarce. On one trip, during the Christmas rush, Walt had a load of furniture to deliver. He stopped off in a place where some really nice homes were being completed. He visited with the men and told them what he was doing in the area. When he left to deliver the furniture, he had a \$10,000.00 order of furniture to be delivered to those new homes.

Stake Boards of the Sunday School for 35 years. Though he has lived in the same city block in Heber, he has belonged to two separate stakes.

Through these years, Walt has run his farm and increased his cattle and range rights. He was appointed to serve on the City Council in the late 1950's, and he ran for County Commissioner in 1959. He was elected and served eight years; the last four of these years, he served as chairman. While on this board, a bond was floated for a new courthouse, and a new county hospital. This was in the 1960's. He also held a part time job as a State Meat Inspector in the Kamas-Heber area. Walt was glad to leave the meat inspector job, of 4 years, to become a foreman of State Road Maintenance. He held this job for four years. At age 65, he retired soon after he had a heart attack. He was able to manage his farm and tend his cattle.

In their early years Jean and Walt, Ralph Giles and Venice Watson sang as a quartet at church and social activities and they were often requested to sing at funerals.

Jean has worked in the Presidency of many church auxiliaries throughout her life. She has been honored by Governor Lee as Outstanding 4-H leader and was awarded a plaque. She worked as a 4-H leader, then as a 4-H State Leader before the award was given.

Jeane Montgomery is in partnership with Mary in the "Sunny Day Pre-School and Nursery". She graduated from the University of Utah and holds a double degree in Early Childhood Development and Psychology. She lives in Sandy, Utah.

Walt said that he is proud of his wife, Jean. She has helped raise a fine family and prompted them in the right direction. Most of the 53 years of their marriage he has held two jobs in order to help see his family was provided for and educated, so much of the burden of raising the children has been hers.

They agree that it has not all been hard work for there has been many enjoyable experiences along the way.

Jean and Walt Montgomery love the valley and the people of Wasatch County. They have gained great satisfaction in knowing that their people were of early pioneer stock in this valley.

Club news

The Sunflower Camp will hold their meeting Monday, May 16, at the home of Merle Bradshaw. Afton Davis and Deon Hatch will be the hostesses.

The forget-me-not camp will hold their meeting on May 16, at the home of Ina Zelle Knight. The lesson will be given by Ethel Broadbent, and a history will be given by Faye Hilton.